

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-20 are currently being prosecuted. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement in view of the amendments and remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

ELECTION OF CLAIMS

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-20. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

GROUP	CLAIMS	CLASSIFICATION
I	1, 2, 6, and 7	Class 123, Subclass 41.69
II	3 and 8	Class 423, Subclass 219
III	4 and 9	Class 123, Subclass 198E
IV	5 and 10	Class 74, Subclass 606R
V	11 and 20	Class 123, Subclass 539

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, applicants have elected claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper in view of the fact that no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

In addition to the above reasons to consider all of the claims in a single application, as set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria

are identified for proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in his restriction requirement, Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims at a later date if they so desire.

*Application No: 10/688,927
Reply dated October 27, 2006
Reply to Restriction Requirement dated September 28, 2006*

*Attorney Docket No. 0505-1250PUS1
Art Unit: 3747
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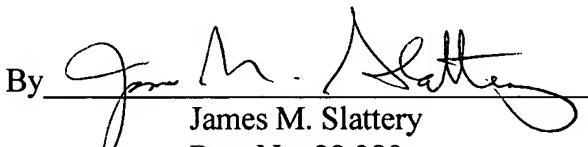
Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 (Direct Line).

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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